

April 23, 2014

Present

Commissioners Michael Vlahovich, Joanne Clark, Ann Borders, Joyce Harrod, and Roy Myers, Town Manager Jean Weisman, Zoning Officer Deborah Renshaw, Administrative Clerk Suzanna Warnick, and eight members of the public.

Call to Order

President Vlahovich called to order the regular legislative session of the Commissioners of St. Michaels at 5:00 p.m., in the meeting room of the Edgar M. Bosley, Jr. Municipal Building, 300 Mill Street, St. Michaels, Maryland, and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Announcements from the COSM, Staff and Public

President Vlahovich announced the Commissioners held a closed session on Tuesday, April 22, 2014 R 2:00 p.m. in the Town Office pursuant to Maryland Code, State Government Article §10-508(a) 1(i) the appointment, employment, assignment, promotion, discipline, demotion, compensation, removal, resignation or performance evaluation of appointees, employees, or officials over whom it has jurisdiction; (ii) any other personnel matter that affects one or more specific individuals. President Vlahovich then announced the Town had been conducting interviews for the newly created Communications Manager position and that the Commissioners were hopeful someone would be selected by the review committee, consisting of Commissioners Clark and Boards, Town Manager Jean Weisman, and Cassandra VanHooser of the Talbot County Office of Tourism. President Vlahovich also said the Town would be holding an election on Monday, May 5, 2014 in the Town Office from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., and that the election will be for two Commissioners for four-year terms. President Vlahovich noted that candidates who had filed were Roy Myers and Jamie Windon, and that absentee ballots were available in the Town Office. President Vlahovich said that business owners and operators in St. Michaels were invited to a meeting with the Commissioners on April 29th at 6 p.m. to discuss issues relating to safety and aesthetics in the Town's commercial district. Commissioner Clark said her computer had been hacked and that anyone receiving odd e-mail messages from her should not open them. Commissioner Myers said he and Commissioner Borders had met with the St. Michaels Business Association in advance of the meeting on April 29th. Mrs. Weisman said that sewer work has begun on E. Chew Avenue.

Public Hearing and Possible Vote – Real Property Tax Rate

President Vlahovich said that the Commissioners proposed to keep the Real Property tax rate the same at \$.45 per \$100 of assessment, the Personal Property tax rate the same at \$.0 per \$100 of assessment for business, and the Personal Property tax for utilities the same at \$1.60 per \$100 of assessment. President Vlahovich then officially opened the public hearing. Mrs. Warnick said there were no names on the sign-in sheet. Mrs. Weisman then explained the tax rate calculations and gave an overview of the tax rates and budget categories and the changes made from the last budget session. President Vlahovich then asked if there were any questions or comments from the public. Marian Brown of Water Street asked if the bulkhead repair in Hollis Park meant the bulk-heading of the lagoon. Mrs. Weisman said yes. Commissioner Myers said he supported this year's budget, including keeping the tax rate the same, but he thought that the tax rate may have to increase next year. Commissioner Clark thanked Mrs. Weisman for her work on the budget and how smoothly the process went. There were no other comments. President Vlahovich then called for a motion and vote. Commissioner Myers made a motion to approve the budget and tax rate as indicated. President Vlahovich called upon Mrs. Warnick, who read the title of the Resolution into the record as follows:

RESOLUTION NO. 2014- 04, A RESOLUTION OF THE COMMISSIONERS OF ST. MICHAELS TO SET THE TAX RATE AND ADOPT A BUDGET FOR FY 2015

Commissioner Borders then seconded Commissioner Myers' motion, which then passed on a roll call vote of 5-0 in favor.

Consent Agenda

- Approval of minutes for March 2014

President Vlahovich announced that a vote to approve the consent agenda would include approval of minutes for the month of March 2014, both regular meetings and budget workshops. As there were no comments or changes from the Commissioners or the public, President Vlahovich called for a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented. Commissioner Borders made the motion, which was seconded by Commissioner Clark, and which passed on a roll call vote of 5-0 in favor.

Ordinances eligible for a Vote

- Ordinance No. 444

President Vlahovich announced that Ordinance 444 was introduced by Commissioners Borders, Clark, Harrod and Myers on February 26, 2014, that a Public Hearing was held on March 26, 2014,, and that the Ordinance is now eligible for Vote. President Vlahovich then called upon Mrs. Warnick, who read the title of the Ordinance into the record as follows.

ORDINANCE NO. 444, AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CODE OF THE TOWN OF ST. MICHAELS; CHAPTER 340 (ZONING), ARTICLE V (SUPPLEMENTAL ZONE REGULATIONS), §340-40 (SIGNS), SECTION (C) TO ADD A NEW PARAGRAPH 18 (CHARITABLE FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES OR SPECIAL EVENTS WHICH SIGNAGE IS TO BE LOCATED ON UTILITY POLES) AND THE RENUMBERING OF PARAGRAPHS 18 (VERTICAL BANNERS), 19 (COMMERCIAL BANNERS), AND PARAGRAPH 20 (OFF PREMISES SIGNS) TO REFLECT THE ADDITION OF NEW PARAGRAPH 18 AND GENERALLY RELATING TO SIGNS IN THE TOWN OF ST. MICHAELS

President Vlahovich then called upon Mrs. Renshaw, who noted that no additional changes had been made to the ordinance since the last discussion. President Vlahovich said he still had some concerns that the ordinance lacks accountability of non-profits on the application. The other Commissioners were comfortable with the existing language. After some additional discussion, during which no changes to the ordinance were made, President Vlahovich called for a motion to accept Ordinance No. 444 as presented. Commissioner Myers made the motion, which was seconded by Commissioner Clark and which passed on a roll call vote of 4-1, with Commissioner Vlahovich dissenting.

- Ordinance No. 445

President announces that the Ordinance was introduced by Commissioners Myers and Clark on April 16, 2014, and a Public Hearing was held on April 9, 2014, and that the Ordinance was now eligible for Vote. President Vlahovich called upon Mrs. Warnick, who read the title of the Ordinance into the record as follows:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE TOWN OF ST. MICHAELS APPROVING A PLANNED REDEVELOPMENT OVERLAY DISTRICT FOR PROPERTY IDENTIFIED AS PARCELS 1660. 1661, 1662, 1663, 1657, 1658 OWNED BY 29TH STREET 77 SPEEDBOAT LLC AND PARCEL 1656 OWNED BY WALTER H. HAWES AND SHOWN ON TALBOT COUNTY TAX MAP 200 WHICH ARE FURTHER IDENTIFIED AS PROPERTIES FRONTING ON THE CORNER OF DODSON AND TALBOT STREET AND

FRONTING ALONG TALBOT STREET. THE PROPERTY UNDER REVIEW CONSISTS OF 58,370 SQUARE FEET AND LYING WITHIN THE TOWN OF ST. MICHAELS; AUTHORIZING THAT THE TOWN ZONING MAP BE AMENDED ACCORDINGLY; PROVIDING THAT THE TITLE OF THIS ORDINANCE SHALL BE DEEMED A FAIR SUMMARY OF THE ORDINANCE; AND ALL MATTERS GENERALLY RELATING TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A PLANNED REDEVELOPMENT OVERLAY DISTRICT FOR THE AFOREMENTIONED PROPERTY

President Vlahovich then called for any comments. Commissioner Harrod asked for the equivalent acreage on the property and the project attorney responded that it was 1.34 acres. As there were no other comments, President Vlahovich called for a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 445 as presented. Commissioner Clark made the motion which was seconded by Commissioners Harrod and Myers, and which passed on a roll call vote of 5-0 in favor.

Items for Discussion

- Cast iron sign request from the waterfront restaurants and marina on Mulberry Street

Mrs. Weisman said that the waterfront restaurants were requesting metal signs like all the street signs in Town. Mrs. Weisman said the metal street signs cost \$3500.00 each. Mrs. Weisman explained that there are other signs in Town that identify different shops that look similar to the metal signs, but she noted that they are wooden signs. Mrs. Weisman said that some research by Commissioner Clark found that the wooden signs were made for the Business Association by the Maritime Museum. After some discussion of additional signage, where to put it, possibly moving the signpost for safety, and the alternative of adding directional arrows to existing signage, the Commissioners took public comment. President Vlahovich acknowledged the arrival of Jon Mason of Town Dock Restaurant, who had put forward the request, and the discussion continued. President Vlahovich thanked Mr. Mason for his input and comments. Mr. Mason said he would do some additional research and come up with alternatives to the metal signage for the next discussion by the Commissioners.

Commissioners' Calendar

The Commissioners made changes and additions to their meeting agendas for May and June 2014.

Comments from the Public (Residents and Taxpayers)

George Clark of Perry Cabin Drive suggested that any overhaul of signage in Town should include consulting professional signage experts to assist with design, placement and messaging.

Comments from the Commissioners

There were no additional comments.

Announcement of Future Meetings/Events

- April 29, 2014 – 6:00 pm– Town Office – COSM and Business owners/operators workshop on safety and aesthetics in commercial district
- May 5, 2014 – 7-7:00 pm – Election Day for two Commissioners
- May 14, 2014 – 5:00 pm – COSM Regular Working Session
- May 26, 2014 – Office closed for Memorial Day
- May 28, 2014 – 5:00 pm – COSM Regular Legislative Session

The Commissioners of St. Michaels
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Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Suzanna K. Warnick
Administrative Clerk

Public Handouts:

Agenda

Ordinance No. 444 – Signs

Ordinance No. 445 – PROverlay Zone – S. Talbot Street

Resolution 2014-04 – FY15 budget and tax rate